

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CG

SUBJECT: BRITISH CONTRUCTION FIRM HALTS WORK IN ZAIRE

1. OCTOBER 20 BRITISH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MARTIN TOLD EMBOFF THAT BRITISH FIRM WIMPYS HALTED WORK INDEFINITELY OCT 18. WIMPYS HAS SUBCONTRACT FROM GUEST, KEEN AND NETTLEFORD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT AIRFIELDS IN ZAIRE FINANCED BY 50 MILLION POUND STERLING LOAN FROM BRITISH MERCHANT BANKS. THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO WITHDRAW APPROXIMATELY 100 EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES IN ZAIRE. REASON FOR WORK STOPPAGE IS THAT APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO GOZ AGENCY REGIE DES VOIES AERIENNES UNILATERALLY CANCELLED CONTRACT OF BRITISH QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEERS, STATING THAT THEY WOULD DO THIS WORK. REGIE DES VOIES AERIENNES HAS REFUSED BRITISH FIRM ACCESS TO CONSTRUCTION SITES. WITHOUT CERTIFICATION BY BRITISH QUALITY CONTROL FIRM, BRITISH MERCHANT BANKS HAVE REFUSED TO MAKE PAYMENTS DUE TO CONTRACTORS.

2. GOZ IS DELINQUENT IN ITS PAYMENTS DUE TO MERCHANT BANKS AND HAS CITED DISPUTE OVER CONTRACT WITH QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEERS AS REASON FOR REFUSAL TO MAKE PAYMENTS DUE. MARTIN STATED THAT AS USUAL IN ZAIRE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION AS TO REAL MOTIVE OF GOZ. HE NOTED

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THAT WORK ON AIRFIELDS IS APPROXIMATELY HALF COMPLETE

AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROBLEM UNTIL REGIE DES
VOIES AERIENNES UNILATERALLY CANCELLED CONSULTING FIRM
CONTRACT WITHOUT WARNING. SPECULATION IS THAT THIS IS
MERELY PRETEXT TO AVOID MAKING PAYMENTS DUE, WHICH GOZ
IS FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO MAKE.

3. COMMENT: CIS EMPLOYEES ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF WORK
STOPPAGE BY WIMPY AND ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR OUTCOME
OF DISPUTE AS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF CIS ARE WIDELY
KNOWN.
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